



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT FROM NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

National Guard Bureau statement following meeting with LTG Blum and Castner family

Today LTG H Steven Blum, Chief, National Guard Bureau, met with Mr. Stephen Castner, whose son, Stephen W. Castner, a member of the Guard's First Battalion, 121st Field Artillery Regiment based in Milwaukee, was killed by a roadside bomb July 24, days after arriving in theater. Much of the discussion was a candid and personal exchange.

The meeting was to fulfill LTG Blum's commitment to Mr. Castner and Governor Doyle to review the quality of training at Camp Shelby and theater equipment.

Like others before them, the 121st and all deployed Soldiers of the National Guard and the U.S. Army have received the best equipment and the best training available in the world. Moreover, the training, equipment, and procedures that our Soldiers receive, across components, is constantly being updated and improved as new technologies avail themselves.

The Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve are all equal and essential members of the Army team. We are one Army – this is how we operate at home, and how we operate abroad. We have to be one team – the missions and the lives of Soldiers depend on it. Together, we will continue to strive for the highest level of training and best equipment for all our Soldiers.

We share the loss of the Castner family and honor all Soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

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Note to Editors and News Directors:

This release is distributed by the Wisconsin National Guard on behalf of National Guard Bureau. Questions about this statement should be directed to National Guard Bureau Public Affairs (call 703-607-2613).

The Wisconsin National Guard will not be commenting on this statement or the meeting between Lt. Gen. Blum and the Castner family.

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